

9/20/10

In The Weeds: fresh pond reservation volunteer stewards update

Last week

- Monday 9/13

Helen, Betsy, Elizabeth and I headed down to the perimeter fence path just past Glacken Slope to pull a few more black swallowwort pods before it started to rain. We probably could have stuck it out but flashbacks from last month's 'steward soak' in Lusitania had us heading back with an hour's worth of pods.



Source: <http://www.ontariowildflower.com>

- Thursday 9/16

Thanks Betsy, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Richard, and Andy (who joined us for the first time!) for an interesting and fun weeding session last Thursday at Glacken Slope. I gave a brief explanation of how this restoration project uses natural systems to capture and infiltrate stormwater runoff by using mulch mits, a bioretention basin (rain garden), a bioswale, check dams, pervious pavement, level spreaders, and a gravel infiltration trench. In addition to removing invasive trees – mostly black locusts and Norway Maples, birches, beeches, oaks, viburnums, dogwoods, etc. were planted to significantly increase plant diversity.

Volunteers pulled hundreds of black locust seedlings (and saplings which were root suckers), lamb's quarters, black swallowwort, nodding smartweed, and black nightshade. Hopefully these efforts, along with continued weeding and monitoring, will give the many beautiful native plants a chance to spread. Some forbs found among the black locusts include columbines, wintergreen, bunchberry, cardinal flower, sensitive fern, marginal wood fern, lady fern, partridgeberry, and tomatoes (!).

Steward Program schedule

*Monday, September 20: 5:30 – 7:00 (until dusk)

*Thursday, September 23: 2:00 – 4:00

*Monday, September 27: *upper watershed tour instead*: 5:00 – 7:00 *Thursday, September 30: 2:00 – 4:00

*Please wear long sleeves and pants. Meet us at the volunteer trailer in the main parking lot by the Water Dept. front door. If you're late, check the map on the trailer to find out where we are. Or call Deb (617) 834-1368.

Invasive plants info

Globe article about goats, sheep, and black swallowwort:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2010/09/12/fighting_the_tenacious_black_swallow_wort/?s_campaign=8315

Guide to Common Invasive Plants

drawings by Elizabeth Wyld



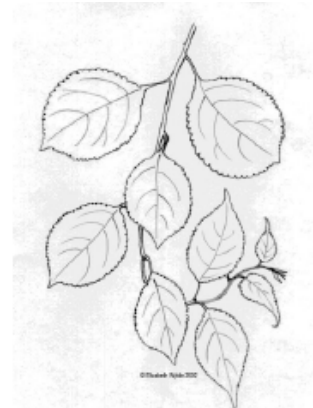
Black Locust



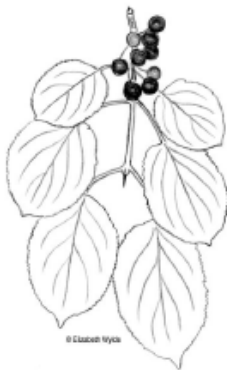
Black Swallowwort



Bull Thistle



Climbing Bittersweet



Common Buckthorn



Garlic Mustard



Glossy Buckthorn

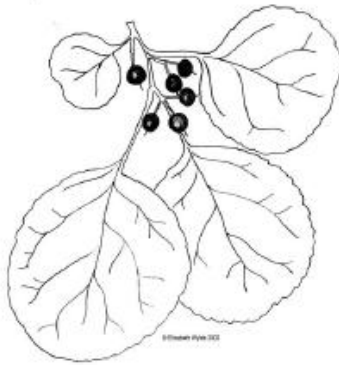


Japanese Knotweed

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Norway Maple



Oriental Bittersweet



Poison Ivy



Purple Loosestrife



Multiflora Rose